

APPLICATION FOR UNITED STATES PLANT PATENT

for

CHRYSANTHEMUM PLANT NAMED 'STARLET PINK'

by

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This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/421,387, filed October 25, 2002.

LATIN NAME OF THE GENUS AND SPECIES

Botanical classification: *Chrysanthemum morifolium*.

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VARIETY DENOMINATION

The new Chrysanthemum variety denomination is 'Starlet Pink.'

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention comprises a new and distinct cultivar of Chrysanthemum botanically known as *Chrysanthemum morifolium*, and referred to by the cultivar name 'Starlet Pink.'

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'Starlet Pink,' identified as 30912-0, originated from a cross made in a controlled breeding program in Chichester, West Sussex, United Kingdom. The female parent of the new variety is an undistributed, unpatented seedling identified as 'G15E2.' The male parent of the new variety is the unpatented variety known as 'Leyla.' The new variety 'Starlet Pink' has been asexually reproduced by vegetative cuttings in Chichester, West Sussex, United Kingdom and the distinguishing characteristics are retained through successive generations of asexual reproduction.

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BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

'Starlet Pink' is a garden type of Chrysanthemum plant variety having a domed – round habit carrying a uniform canopy of small pink single flowers.

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Comparison with Parent

Plants of the new Chrysanthemum variety 'Starlet Pink' are similar to the parent variety 'G15E2' in plant habitat and growth rate. In side-by-side comparisons in Chichester, West Sussex, United Kingdom, under commercial practice, plants of the new Chrysanthemum variety 'Starlet Pink' differed from plants of the parent 'G15E2' in the following characteristics.

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1. The new variety 'Starlet Pink' produces pale pink flowers whereas the parent 'G15E2' produces purple flowers.

2. Plants of the new variety 'Starlet Pink' have a more domed and round habit than plants of the parent 'G15E2.'
3. Flowers of the new variety 'Starlet Pink' are larger than flowers of the parent variety 'G15E2.'

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Comparison with Other Varieties

Plants of the new Chrysanthemum variety 'Starlet Pink' are dissimilar to the unpatented but distributed variety 'Dove' in plant habit and growth rate. In side-by-side comparisons in Chichester, West Sussex, United Kingdom, under commercial practice, plants of the new Chrysanthemum variety 'Starlet Pink' differed from plants of the variety 'Dove' in the following characteristics.

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1. The new variety 'Starlet Pink' produces pale pink flowers whereas 'Dove' produces deeper pink flowers.
2. Plants of the new variety 'Starlet Pink' have shorter and less inflorescence than plants of the variety 'Dove.'
- 15 3. Plants of the new variety 'Starlet Pink' are less vigorous than plants of the variety 'Dove.'

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ILLUSTRATION

Typical specimens of the plant and flowers for the new Chrysanthemum variety 'Starlet Pink' are shown in the accompanying digital photograph. The colors shown are as true as possible within the usual limits of this kind of illustration. Figure 1 is a whole plant view of the new variety 'Starlet Pink' grown in a pot. The plant shown in the illustration is 70 days from the commencement of planting outdoors in mid-June.

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DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The following description of the new Chrysanthemum variety 'Starlet Pink' is of plants grown outside, natural season, in Chichester, West Sussex, United Kingdom in the month of June. The cultivar has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary significantly with variations in the environment such as temperature, length of day and light intensity, without any variance in genotype. The commercial classification of the new variety is a garden Chrysanthemum.

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Plants of the new variety have been grown successfully under temperature conditions averaging about 50°F at night and about 65°F to 75°F during the day under natural light conditions. The plants were grown outdoors in mid-June in 4 liter pots using a loamless compost. No growth retardants were used. To produce a commercial product the plants may be pinched once with the center bud removed. The typical container size for commercial growth is 4 liter (8"). It has been observed that the shelf life of the new variety is about 25 days with a response time of about 10 weeks natural season. The new variety is suitable for growth in a temperature range of 50°F to 75°F.

The new variety may be produced as a pot plant. The following description is with respect to a plant produced as a garden pot plant. In the description of this new Chrysanthemum variety, color values have been taken from the Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart (R.H.S.C.C.).

Plant

Plant type: Pot

Habit: Domed - Round

Height: 50 cm

Width: 50 cm

Branching characteristics: Free Branching.

Length of Lateral Branches: 14-27 cm

Number of Breaks from Pinch: 7-11

Stem Color: near 137A

Response Time: 70 days natural season

Vigor: Medium

Shelf Life: 25 days

Disease (Susceptibility/Resistance observed): None observed to date

Pest (Susceptibility/Resistance observed): None observed to date

Growth retardant type and treatment: No treatment necessary

The plants were grown for 10 weeks in natural season conditions.

Propagation:

Type: Vegetative via Stem Cuttings

Time to rooting: 12 days with soil temperatures of 70° F

Rooting habit: Fine and Fibrous

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Foliage

Number of Leaves Per Lateral Branch: 8-10

Compound or single: Single

Arrangement of Leaves: Alternate

Shape of Leaf: Typically 5 lobed ovate

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Size of Leaf: *Width* (cm): 1-1.5 *Length* (cm): 2-4

Leaf Apex: Rounded

Base: Cordate

Attachment: Petioled

Aspect: Slightly Undulating

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Margin: Palmately Lobed

Surface characteristics: *Top:* Slightly Pubescent

Bottom: Slightly Pubescent

Petiole: *Color:* near 138B

Length: 0.8-1.2 cm

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Venation: Net prominent mid vein at underside

Color: upper side: near 136B

under side: near 136C

Color: Mature Leaf, *upper side:* near 137A; *under side:* near 137C

Young Leaf, *upper side:* near 137A; *under side:* near 137C

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Flower

Flower appearance: Matte

Flower type: Single

- Flower form: Flat
- Flower shape: Round
- Flowering habit: Cyme
- Number of blossoms per branch: 12-15
- 5 Inflorescence form: Corymbose
- Depth of fully expanded blossoms: 1 cm
- Diameter of fully expanded blossoms: 2.5-3.5 cm
- Phyllaries: *Number*: 23-25
- Color*: near 138A
- 10 *Length*: 4-7 mm
- Width*: 1-1.5 mm
- Texture/Appearance*: Pubescent
- Pedicel: *Length*: terminal: 8 cm; lateral: 11 cm
- Color*: near 138B
- 15 *Surface*: Pubescent
- Habit*: Straight/Slightly Curving
- Strength*: Medium
- Ray florets: *Form/Shape*: Straight
- Texture/Appearance*: Matte
- 20 *Number per flower*: 50-60
- Length*: 1 – 1.5 cm; *Width*: 3–5 mm
- Apex*: Round
- Base*: Tubular
- Margin*: Entire
- 25 Disc florets: *Form/Shape*: Cylindrical
- Texture/Appearance*: Shiny
- Number per flower*: 130-150
- Length*: 4-6 mm; *Width*: <1 mm
- Diameter of disc*: 1.2 cm
- 30 Fragrance: None observed

Flower Bud (at onset of color):

Length: 1 cm*Diameter:* 0.8-1 cm*Form/Shape:* Globular

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General flower color:

1. Ray florets, *upper side*:*Immature:* near 55C*Mature:* near 36D

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Older/Fading: near 36D2. Ray florets, *under side*:*Immature:* near 55C*Mature:* near 36D*Older/Fading:* near 36D

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3. Disc florets:

Immature: near 7A*Mature:* near 17B*Older/Fading:* near 17C

4. Bud: 39A

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Flower progression with age: Flower color deepens uniformly with age and the flowers become slightly cupped shape.

Reproductive Organs

Gynoecium present on Ray and Disc florets.

Ray florets per individual flower:

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Pistil number: 35-40 observed*Stigma color:* near 144D*Stigma shape:* Forked*Style color:* near 144D*Style length:* 1-2 mm

Disc florets per individual flower:

Pistil number: 120-130

Stigma color: 144D

Stigma shape: Forked

5 *Style color:* near 144D

Style length: 2 mm

Androecium present on Disc florets only.

Stamen number: 20-25 observed

Anther shape: Ovoid

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Pollen color: near 12A

Pollen quantity: Slight

Fruit and Seeds: None observed